

Remarks

After entry of the present Amendment, claims 15, 19, 20, 22-30, 32-36, and 38-52 are pending in the present Application with claims 15 and 38 in independent form. Claims 15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25-30, and 33-36 are amended as part of this Amendment, claims 17, 18, 21, 31 and 37 are canceled as part of this Amendment, and claims 38-52 are new. Claims 1-14 and 16 were canceled as part of previous Amendments. The amendments and the new claims are discussed further below.

Claims 15, 17-20, 22, 23, 25-30, and 32-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,340,053 to *Wu et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,274,482 to *Sonoda*. Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wu et al.* in view of *Sonoda* as applied to claim 23 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,628,206 to Baba. Claims 21 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for insufficient antecedent basis. The Examiner has indicated that claims 21 and 31 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under §112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that dependent claims 21 and 31 are allowable. As set forth in detail below, independent claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 21 and all intervening claims. New independent claim 38 includes the limitations of independent claim 15, dependent claim 31, and all intervening claims. Although the Applicants maintain that several other claims are novel and non-obvious, the Applicants are presenting the allowed claims in independent form merely to expedite the prosecution of these allowed claims.

Amended independent claim 15, specifically, is amended to include the limitations of claims 17, 18, and 21. Claims 17, 18, and 21 are cancelled and claims 19, 20, 22, 23, 25-30, and 33-36 are amended to correct dependency based on the cancellation of claim 18. Claims 31 and 37 are also cancelled as being duplicative after the above-described amendments.

New independent claim 38 includes the limitations of claims 15, 17, 18, 28, and 31. New dependent claims 39-52 are dependent from new independent claim 38 and are selectively

copied from dependent claims 19, 20, 22-30, 32-36. No new matter is being introduced.

Finally, the §112, second paragraph rejections of claims 21 and 31, as identified by the Examiner, have been corrected and these corrections are reflected in amended claim 15 and new claim 38. Specifically, the “inlet pass” and the “outlet pass” are now introduced with proper antecedent basis.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 15 and 38 and the claims that depend therefrom, are both novel and non-obvious such that these claims are in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested. Since August 10, 2008 was a Sunday, this Amendment is considered timely filed within two months of the mailing date of the final Office Action. The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 in the name of Howard & Howard Attorneys, P.C. for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment for this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.

Dated: August 11, 2008

/Christopher M. Francis/

Christopher M. Francis, Registration No. 59,511

The Pinehurst Office Center

39400 Woodward Avenue, Suite 101

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5151

(248) 723-0392